

Section 3 Accreditation Standards

Please review pages 14 & 15 in your *Accreditation Framework* (blue booklet) prior to the November 17 and 18th meeting. This section of the Framework explains the options for which standards an institution may be reviewed.

Category I. Common Standards—defines institution wide qualities of the education unit
Accreditation Framework:

Institutions are required to respond to all eight Common Standards (see Appendix 2, pgs 30-31.)

In practice:

Currently, each institution must respond to all eight Common Standards. However, in the case of merged NCATE-CCTC visits, the COA deemed the NCATE standards comparable to the Common Standards, with a few necessary additions such as Advice and Assistance. Therefore an institution participating in a merged NCATE visit may respond to the six NCATE standards. However, this practice is not clearly reflected in the Framework.

Category II. Program Standards—defines curriculum, field experience and candidate competence for specific preparation programs. NOTE: There are specific conditions stated in the Framework related to each of these five options.

Accreditation Framework:

There are five options from which each preparation program may select:

1. California Program Standards
2. National or Professional Program Standards
3. General Program Standards (see Appendix 3, pgs 31-32)
4. Experimental Program Standards (pursuant to Ed Code 44273, see below)
5. Alternative Program Standards (pursuant to Ed Code 44273)

In practice:

Option 1 is most often used by programs. Option 2 has been used most often with certain national standards, for example ASHA and NASP. Option 3 has been used two or three times. Option 4 has been utilized a few times. Option 5 has been utilized twice.

Questions to consider after reading the —

- Do each of the listed options meet the preliminary revised Purposes of Accreditation?
- Are each of the listed options currently successfully implemented?
- Should the listed options be modified?

Ed Code 44273 (a) *The commission has accepted, upon application of an approved institution supported by detailed data and justification, a program developed and offered by that institution as an experimental, exploratory, or pilot program of preparation for such a credential. The commission shall accept only those programs which it finds, by resolution entered in its minutes, to have merit and the potential of improving the quality of service authorized by the credential.*